

Soviets detained outside U.S. embassy

ATHENS (R) — Four Soviet representatives in Greece, including a diplomat and a journalist, were briefly held by police on Saturday after they were spotted driving repeatedly past the United States embassy, police sources said. Security guards at the embassy alerted police after becoming suspicious of two cars, each with two people inside and with number-plates indicating non-diplomatic employees of a foreign embassy. The incident took place at about 2 a.m. The four, who told police they were looking for a restaurant, were taken to police headquarters and freed after an identity check. The sources declined to name them. The national news agency ANA said the Soviet embassy had protested to the Greek government over the incident. U.S. sources confirmed the incident had taken place, saying the embassy was pleased by the quick police reaction and that the incident now seemed less serious than it had been first thought.



Pretoria opposition gets new chief

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's official parliamentary opposition party, in disarray after the surprise resignation of its leader, Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, on Saturday elected a moderate long-time politician as acting leader. The federal council of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) named Colin Eglin, 60, as leader until the party's federal congress later this month in disarray over the lack of apartheid reform by parliament. The Star newspaper quoted him on Saturday as saying he quit parliamentary politics because of a private meeting with President P.W. Botha on Nov. 25 in which Mr. Botha pledged that whites would keep their own schools, living areas and way of life. Mr. Slabbert and Mr. Botha's office were not available for comment. Mr. Eglin is party chairman and was PFP leader from 1977 to 1979.

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Rifai confers with Omani official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred in his office Saturday with Mr. Mahmud bin Ibrahim, director general of the Investments and Economic Development of Oman. The meeting was attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hassan Al-Khatib and Mr. Hussein Al-Qasbi, the Central Bank governor.

South Yemen appeals for blood

ADEN (R) — South Yemen appealed Saturday for blood donations from hundreds of people wounded in last month's battles between rival factions. Aden Radio quoted a statement by the country's blood bank as making the appeal to citizens and army personnel. It said supplies were almost finished. Officials said up to 15,000 died in the fighting which led to the ousting of President Ali Nasser Muhammad, but there has been no estimate of the number of wounded.

Museveni urges Okello to return

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has offered his predecessor, General Tito Okello, a life of privilege if he returns home from Sudan where he fled after being overthrown last month. Mr. Museveni said in a statement Friday night the offer, which includes a chauffeur-driven car and free medical care, was unconditional. He urged Gen. Okello to return to Uganda and "live as a free citizen." The Sudanese newspaper Al-Sahafah said on Saturday Gen. Okello was planning to fly to Khartoum in the next few days to seek political asylum.

Turkey to get Soviet gas

ANKARA (AP) — Soviet and Turkish officials have signed an agreement to bring Siberian natural gas to Turkey through a pipeline, Finance Ministry officials said Saturday. The construction of the pipeline is to be opened to international bidding in the near future. The pipeline will be an extension of the existing Soviet natural gas pipeline to Bulgaria. Turkey's western neighbor.

Yugoslavia indicts U.S.-deported Nazi

BELGRADE (R) — Extradited Nazi Andrija Arankovic, who was returned to Yugoslavia by the United States last Wednesday, has been formally charged with ordering the mass murder of 231,000 Yugoslavs in World War II, the government news agency Tanjug said. Arankovic, 86, one-time interior minister in the Nazi puppet regime of independent Croatia, was charged in Zagreb and remanded in custody. Tanjug gave no indication of when a trial might be held. Tanjug said Arankovic had "consciously and deliberately ordered and caused the death of about 231,000 men, women and children — Serbs, Croats, Gypsies, Jews and other Yugoslav citizens."

Iraq says it is poised for victory on south front

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID its air force sunk 19 Iranian naval vessels and shot down two jet fighters on Saturday in stepped up air activity and was expecting an announcement of a crushing victory against the Iranians in the southern warfront where Iran launched a major offensive on Sunday.

Iran said it was "consolidating" what it said were positions on the Iraqi side of the Shatt Al Arab waterway but Iraq said its forces had isolated the Iranians and cut off supplies coming from the Iranian side of the waterway.

Baghdad Radio said 11 Iranian "naval targets" were destroyed by rockets fired from Iraqi jets in the morning period, and eight in the afternoon.

"And thus, our eagles imposed their complete domination of the Gulf skies. From now on, no aggressor will be allowed to appear in the Gulf waters," the radio said.

A Baghdad spokesman also said Iraqi jets sank at least 19 "naval targets" within a few hours in northern reaches of the Gulf. He did not identify the type of targets, but reports from the southern port city of Basra by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) suggested they were boatloads of Iranian troop reinforcements.

A senior Iraqi naval officer said on Friday these boats could carry some 250 to 300 men at a time. The increased Iraqi air activity

near the northern tip of the Gulf came amid announcements that the Iranian advance in the area had been checked.

Baghdad Radio quoted General Rashid Al Emara as saying the Iraqi forces have stopped the Iranian attack and were encircling the Iranian positions.

The radio reported the attacking Iraqi jets also shot down two Iranian jet fighters. This raised to four jets and three helicopter gunships the total number of Iranian aircraft reportedly shot down by Iraq since the Iranian offensive across the Shatt Al Arab was launched Sunday.

Meanwhile, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that an Iranian helicopter had accomplished an unusual feat of shooting down an Iraqi jet fighter.

Iraqi commanders and war communiques made no mention of fighting on the west of the Fao Peninsula, and said Iranian troops were encircled with their backs to the Shatt.

"Enemy troops are now retreating before our forces," Iraqi

field commander, Gen. Emara, told Baghdad Radio. "None of the enemy soldiers will escape the great pincer movement formed by the Iraqi counter-attack."

Iraq said it began a three-pronged counter-attack two days ago, but Iran claimed it has repelled the attacks and enlarged its bridgehead on the Iraqi side of the Shatt.

Earlier, Iran claimed it was shelling a key supply route 80 kilometers inside Iraq and held 750 square kilometers of the Fao Peninsula, but Baghdad again said the Iranians were pinned down and surrounded.

Iraq said its warplanes mounted heavy bombing attacks on retreating Iranian troops as Iraqi special forces and infantry backed by armor tightened an encirclement of Iranians still on the Iraqi side of Shatt Al Arab.

But with its offensive in its sixth day, Iran said its long-range guns were shelling the Safwan-Basra road, apparently from positions near Iraq's land border with Kuwait.

Safwan, site of a big Iraqi airfield, lies west of the Fao Peninsula's marshes on the main highway from Kuwait to Basra, Iraq's second city.

Military attaches in Tehran put the maximum range of Iran's artillery at 30 kilometers. One said the claim, if confirmed, could put the Iranians within 10 kilometers of Umm Al Qasr on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Iran claims it encircled the remnants of the Iraqi navy at Umm Al



Israelis kill Palestinian in Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops in the occupied Gaza Strip shot dead an Arab who allegedly fled after being detained for questioning, a military spokesman said.

The victim was one of two men stopped by a patrol in the center of the city of Gaza, the second escaped unharmed. The spokesman claimed troops called on the suspects to halt and fired warning shots in the air before shooting at them.

State radio identified the dead man as Shuaib Uthuk, 25, of Gaza.

Last September troops shot and killed two Palestinians. One had allegedly fled during an identity check and the second, an eight-year-old boy, was killed when his father drove through a military roadblock.

Arafat offers three formulas for accepting 242 and 338

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Saturday he had put forward three formulas to Washington for accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

Asked whether the PLO was moving towards acceptance of the two resolutions, Mr. Arafat told reporters: "I think this is under discussion. We have already presented three formulas to the United States on this point."

The current stalemate in efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict has been blamed on PLO rejection of the resolutions, which recognise Israel's right to exist but fail to address Palestinian demands for self-determination.

Mr. Arafat, speaking after talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi, did not give details but said

he had asked Jordan and Egypt to convey the formulas to the U.S. administration.

The PLO leader also described a U.S. statement which considered the Palestinians to have more rights than mere refugees — as stated in Resolutions 242 and 338 — as "an important and a positive signal."

The U.S. statement, issued by the State Department on Monday, acknowledged that Arab-Israeli peace negotiations must "recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." It said that any settlement of the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza District must have their "prior consent."

"The statement is a positive step forward in that it refers for the first time to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people

and establishes a link between them and (U.N. Security Council) Resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Arafat said, echoing the Egyptian view stated by President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday.

The remark was a far cry from comment by Mr. Arafat on the U.S. position when he arrived in Cairo on Thursday. He said then that the inconclusive talks he held in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein and other leaders between Jan. 25 - Feb. 7 "stopped because of American intransigence and American bias for the Israeli position, which denies the right to exist for five million Palestinians (worldwide)."

Monday's U.S. statement said the Palestinian issue "is more than a refugee question" and that Resolution 242 and the legitimate

Opposition-boycotted assembly proclaims Marcos reelected

MANILA (R) — The Philippine parliament on Saturday proclaimed President Ferdinand Marcos as the winner of last week's election against Corason Aquino after a mass walkout by the opposition.

The proclamation came two hours after the arrival of President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib and on the eve of a mass rally by Mrs. Aquino.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver, a kinsman of Mr. Marcos, called an emergency meeting of all military commanders and declared a full alert for riot police in Manila.

The opposition walked out after its motion for a deferment of the proclamation was voted down by the Marcos-controlled parliament.

Mrs. Aquino, widow of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, has called for a mass rally

in a central Manila park on Sunday to announce her plans to protest against Mr. Marcos' reelection.

Mr. Habib was pulled out of retirement and ordered here by Mr. Reagan to assess the political crisis and its effect on the future of two key U.S. military bases in the Philippines, seen as vital to America's military role in the Pacific (Reagan urged to halt U.S. aid to the Philippines, page 9).

After the opposition walked out from the 190-seat assembly about 120 members of Mr. Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL) unanimously approved his proclamation.

They included the president's daughter, Imee Marcos Manotoc. Opposition members accused the KBL of "railroading" the proclamation despite their challenges against the official vote count.

Church leaders in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation of 54 million people virtually declared Mr. Marcos an illegitimate ruler.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines called in a statement on Friday for "non-violent struggle for justice" and said: "A government that assumes or retains power through fraudulent means has no moral basis."

In a letter on Saturday to conference chairman Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, Mr. Marcos asked the bishops to substantiate their charges that the Feb. 7 polls were "unparalleled in the fraudulence of their conduct."

He said the bishops' call for non-violent struggle had dangerous implications and warned

Reagan favours Marcos and bases to democracy, page 4

France reviews options on Chad

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand, weighing a Chad request for French troops to block a rebel offensive, held crisis talks on Saturday to work out a response to the latest flare-up in the former colony's civil war.

Mr. Mitterrand met Defence Minister Paul Quilès Saturday morning at the Elysee Palace to discuss French options after an offensive by Libyan-backed rebels fighting in the north of the Central African country.

Mr. Quilès, who returned Friday night from an inspection tour of French forces in the neighbouring Central African Republic and Chad, submitted a secret report on the conflict.

Neither the president's office nor the Defence Ministry would give any details of the talks, which are likely to have focused on a demand by Mr. Habre that France send troops to contain any further rebel advance.

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said on Saturday no decision had been taken in response to the request.

In a statement Friday night, Chad said government troops had checked a five-day rebel onslaught around the so-called red line splitting the country into a government-controlled south and the north held by forces loyal to former President Goukouni Oueddei (See page 2).

The statement accused Libya of trying to achieve control of the whole country.

Libya has denied any role in the latest fighting in Chad's 20-year civil war, but according to Western intelligence reports its troops have occupied the north of the impoverished desert country since the summer of 1983.

France sent a 3,000-man force to support Chad in response to the Libyan occupation of the north but pulled them out a year later after an accord with Tripoli.

According to the newspaper Le Monde, Libya has established two lines of forces north of the 16th Parallel in preparation for a possible attack, flying in large quantities of material aboard 12 transport planes.

Fabius: U.S. may have to accept Duvalier

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Laurent Fabius suggested on Saturday ousted Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier might be forced to seek asylum in the United States if no other country was willing to take him off France's hands.

Mr. Fabius, speaking on French Radio, said the former "president-for-life" would not be sent back to Haiti, from which he fled on Feb. 7 aboard a U.S. air force plane with his wife and a 22-member entourage.

But Mr. Fabius added that, if efforts to find a willing host for France's unwanted guest drew a blank, "it would be normal for him to leave for the United States."

"Mr. Duvalier must leave his current residence and the sooner the better," Mr. Fabius said.

The ex-president is staying with his entourage in a luxurious hotel in the French Alpine resort of Talloires.

Defying an original eight-day deadline for his stay in France, he renewed his plea on Saturday for permanent refuge, saying in a newspaper interview he was a victim of political persecution.

He told Le Figaro newspaper he felt at risk because of his political opinions and wanted to stay here despite the government's determination to get rid of him.

"I believe I correspond to the terms of the First Article of the 1951 United Nations Convention in that I am outside my country with justified fear of being persecuted for my political opinions," he told the right-wing daily.

"From the desecration and destruction of my father's tomb to the massacre of members of the popular militia (the Tontons Macoutes) everything shows that it is the doctrine of Duvalierism that is being challenged," he added.

Genscher: No peace without self-determination

TUNIS (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had talks with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on Saturday after a banquet speech Friday night in which he reiterated Bonn's conviction that Middle East peace could not be achieved without Palestinian self-determination.

Mr. Genscher, who arrived on Friday from Morocco for a two-day official visit, met the 82-year-old head of state in the presidential palace in Carthage, north of Tunis, the official TAP news agency said.

Mr. Genscher had separate talks with Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali on topics including relations between Tunisia and the European Community (EC), TAP said.

Mr. Genscher said Bonn was ready with its European partners

to help to relaunch Middle East peace efforts.

"Our principles are clear. We are convinced that the Middle East conflict cannot be solved without self-determination for the Palestinian people, as well as the right of all countries in the Mediterranean region, including Israel, to a secure existence," he said in his speech reported by TAP.

"We support the independence, integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon," he added. "Violence, far from solving problems, only creates new and bigger ones."

Mr. Genscher said that West Germany and its European partners were determined to tackle the Middle East problem anew, repeating a statement he made in Morocco that terrorism in the Middle East and Europe was a "terrible warning" that the time had come to do so.

Hanoi suggests missing Americans could be alive

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam has said there may be some American servicemen still living in the country, the head of a U.S. congressional delegation said on Saturday after visiting Hanoi.

New York Republican Gerald Solomon told reporters after a two-day visit to Hanoi that Deputy Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son told the delegation there might be live Americans in Vietnam he was not aware of.

"Mr. Son reported that Vietnam has dispatched three teams into the countryside to investigate whether living Americans remain in the country," Mr. Solomon added.

Mr. Solomon added that Hanoi would soon return what were believed to be the remains of 14 Americans.

A total of 2,441 Americans are listed as missing — 1,797 in Vietnam, 556 in Laos, 82 in Kampuchea and six in China — more than 10 years after the Vietnam war ended.

Another U.S. delegation which

visited Vietnam last month said it was told none of the missing were still alive.

"They (the Vietnamese) continue to deny there are any live Americans under their control," Senator Dennis DeConcini said in Washington on Jan. 22.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, the leader of that four-man delegation, also said then he believed some Americans could still be alive in Vietnam or Laos. But he said a meeting between the delegation and six Western ambassadors in Hanoi had been discouraging.

"During their travels about the country, they said they had not seen or heard anything that would indicate that Americans were still alive in Vietnam," Mr. Murkowski said.

Reagan administration officials have said there can be no resumption of diplomatic and economic ties with Hanoi until the issue of missing Americans is resolved and Vietnam pulls its troops out of Kampuchea.

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Hadidi outlines department's programmes to promote archaeology

By Lina Nabil

AMMAN — Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi said during his visit to Jordan that the department will set up popular and archaeological museums in Irbid and Salt and that it will also cooperate with the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University in setting up popular and archaeological museums. The director said that it is planning to organize a mobile exhibition relating the story of mosaics in Jordan through history. This exhibition, he added, will also be touring a number of European countries and North America. Dr. Hadidi noted that an exhibition of Jordanian clay statues, which the department held in Brussels last year, is now being displayed in West Germany before going on to France and Britain. The department will ship the clay statues discovered from a Stone Age site in Ain Ghazal, to the central laboratory at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington within the coming few months for study and restoration work, according to Dr. Hadidi.

The director general went on to say that during this year the Department of Antiquities will undertake restoration and maintenance work on the castles of Karak, Shoubak, and Ajlun and also at Petra, Qasr Al Hallabat, Qasr Al Amr, the ruins of Jerash, Qasr Al Mustatir, the churches of Madaba and the main street in Madaba.

The department will also continue its archaeological excavations in Petra, Wadi Zeqab, Al Laboon, Bab Al Drar, Wadi Al Hissa, Kherbet Eskandar, 'Ain Ghazal, Tal Safot, Um Al Jamal and Tabqet Fabel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omani economy official ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Income Tax and Investment Department at the Omani Ministry of Finance Mahmoud Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Somar left Amman Saturday after a three-day visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a message to Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai from the Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi. He also met with a number of Jordanian officials and discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Oman in development, economic and planning fields. Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Mr. Ibn Somar reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Oman in economic development fields and the exchange of experiences in regional planning.

British unionists arrive to find facts

AMMAN (R) — A delegation from the British Transport and General Workers' Union arrived in Amman Saturday to look into the Palestinian issue. The five-man delegation will gather information from officials and Palestinian refugees in camps and from the Israeli-occupied West Bank for a report to the union's general executive. The delegation will visit Jerusalem Sunday and return here Thursday on their way back to Britain. The union represents 1.5 million workers in the industrial and transport sectors and public services.

Nsour leaves for Riyadh today

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour leaves for Riyadh today heading a Jordanian delegation on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of the board of the Saudi Fund for Development Sheikh Mohammad Abul Khail. During the visit, the two sides will discuss Jordanian development projects being financed by the Saudi fund and the possibility of the fund financing new projects included in the forthcoming five-year development plan prepared by the Ministry of Planning.

Jordan pays its contribution to CAEU

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has paid its contribution to the budget of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) general secretariat, a responsible source at the CAEU has said. He added that the payment of member countries' contributions to the council's budget will enable the pan-Arab economic institution to perform its role in strengthening joint Arab economic action.

GUVS distributes collection boxes for 'one piastre a day' project

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) is in the process of implementing the initial stage of its one piastre a day project to help finance the voluntary societies within GUVS.

GUVS hopes to collect one piastre per person each day through a collection box system. Recently wooden boxes 30x15cm have been placed in the premises of banks, schools, and hotels. GUVS is waiting for the approval of other institutions such as government departments, car parks, homes and the Queen Alia International Airport so that these public places will also provide with boxes for anyone who wishes to contribute.

"Since all that is asked is one piastre a day on a voluntary basis, all members of the public can participate. The idea is to educate adults and children to participate and to build a feeling of wanting to help their society. This gives pride and credit to all who wish to participate without being burdened," said Mr. Fakir Bilbeisi, vice president of GUVS.

The boxes will be emptied every fortnight or once a month and placed in the GUVS account for funding the societies within the union.

Presently GUVS's main source of income is from the welfare lottery tickets, according to Mr. Bilbeisi. In 1985 GUVS distributed JD 662,000 to its 550 societies in both the East and West banks of Jordan.

The union coordinates with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to improve social standards in Jordan. Voluntary societies within the union receive aid to alleviate the suffering of needy families and the poor.

These societies' activities include operating schools, hospitals, orphanages, universities and senior citizens' homes, looking after families of martyrs, taking care of war victims and offering help to needy families.

Righting social imbalances

"The role of charitable societies in both Banks is to create a socially secure community and to bridge

the gap between the rich and the poor," Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times. He feels that social imbalances can be overcome by people: "To me this is social security and even a country's security if we can wipe out greed, greed and envy. Voluntary services play a major role since they are providing satisfaction for needy people. For example, the handicapped centres relieve many families. Because of these services, needy people feel that someone cares about them. In this manner we can create a better society and eliminate social imbalance. Societies are created for this purpose and GUVS represents these societies," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

The voluntary societies are always in need of funds to start new projects, maintain old ones and to help needy citizens. Although a total of 30 piastres placed in a collection box every month by each individual is not a considerable amount, it will nonetheless provide the societies with a considerable amount of income to fund their humanitarian activities.

support for Iran in the five-year old conflict, it said, but did not elaborate on their mission nor give travel dates.

The committee, set up in March 1983 to find a peaceful solution to the war, met earlier this week at Baghdad's request.

The committee consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, North Yemen, Morocco, Iraq and Tunisia and Mr. Klibi.

The requested Security Council meeting on the escalating Gulf war is not expected to begin until next Tuesday, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

He said council members would hold informal consultations on the request on Tuesday morning, with a public session likely later that day.

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Gen. Ver urged people to remain calm and follow the law in the face of "mounting tension" triggered by Sunday's rally.



PRINCE HASSAN VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday calls at the Armed Forces Headquarters for a meeting with General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and his assistant for planning (Petra photo)

Ministry introduces computers in secondary schools

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has started introducing computer sciences as a subject in the educational curriculum in Jordan. The new subject has been introduced to six newly built schools in addition to Sukaina Bint Al Hussein high school for girls and Omar Ibn Al Khattab high school for boys.

Head of the computer section at the Ministry's Department of Curricula and Educational Techniques, Dr. Mohammad Rajab Al Jabiri, said that the aim of this experiment, which is part of the curriculum in the secondary cycle, is to help students acquire new concepts of computers and to familiarise them with the components of the computer system. He added that it is also aimed at giving the students an idea about data processing, computer operations and the basics of programming.

A curriculum has been drawn up for the subject which is to be taught to the three secondary classes. A committee has been entrusted with preparing two working papers on books dealing with the operation of computers and programming in Basic computer language, according to Dr. Jabiri. He added that 22 computers have been purchased and a tender has been awarded for the supply of another 90 computers. JD 100,000 has been allocated this year for purchasing similar equipment for expanding this experiment during the next year to include 22 new schools, he continued.

A training course on computer sciences and programming has been held for 34 female and male teachers to familiarise them with computers and how to operate and use them for the storage and retrieval of data. Dr. Jabiri pointed out that the schools at which the new experiment has been introduced are in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa.

Jordan, Britain open talks on promoting air transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Britain Saturday opened talks on promoting air transport. Teams representing civil aviation services in both countries are discussing increasing flights between Amman and London by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and British Airways to become six flights a week instead of four, according to a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). He said that the two sides will also discuss increasing the two air carriers' passenger capacity to 1,000 a week instead of only 650.

CAA Director General Khaled Mohammad Ali spoke at the outset of the meeting paying tribute to the close cooperation between Alia and British Airways. He said the two airlines have been involved in preparing a plan for the implementation of a tourist programme for Jordan and the United Kingdom. He expressed hope that the talks would yield fruitful results and benefit both countries. Alia representatives are taking part in the three-day meeting.

Rifai requests priority for local companies in tender awards

AMMAN (Petra) — A circular issued by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai to government departments and ministries has urged all those concerned with awarding tenders for projects to give priority to local companies.

The circular said that certain foreign companies executing projects in the Kingdom have been relying on foreign workers because they accept lower wages which meant that foreign companies' costs were lower than local firms and contracting companies. This was possible, the circular said, because all previous contracts between the government

and foreign companies provided the latter with the right to employ foreign workers at a rate of 50 per cent of their workforce.

It said this right was justified in the past due to the shortage of local workers but added that under the present circumstances Jordanian contractors and workers should now be given priority.

The circular instructed government departments to coordinate their work with the Ministry of Labour before concluding contracts with any foreign company and to involve the ministry in any discussions preceding the signing of the contract.

Administration experts prepare for international conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of experts in Arab public administration services Saturday opened a series of meetings at the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administration Sci-

ences (AOAS) in the course of preparations for an international conference on public administration due to open in September.

The ministry's director of the Diseases and Vaccination Department, Dr. Hani Shammout, said earlier that all mother and child care centres and government hospitals in the country would take part in the campaign and in a programme for spreading health awareness among members of the public.

Emergency services set up by Amman Municipality have offered treatment to 20 people in the Amman area following accidents caused by the weather conditions over the past two days. A municipality spokesman said that the cases were largely the result of water flooding a number of homes or victims of traffic accidents.

In Zarqa, emergency teams formed by the municipality and the Civil Defence Department said they handled 30 cases as a result of the heavy rainfall. Teams were called to areas near the Zarqa River, Janna'a, and Hay Ma'sum to open roads, remove earth and rocks from streets and to pump away accumulated water in low-lying areas. Warning were issued urging people to move away from the Zarqa River due to a rise in its level.

Heavy rainfall subsides after causing flooding, hazardous road conditions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following two days of heavy rain in most regions of Jordan, a gradual improvement in the weather conditions is forecast, according to a spokesman for the Meteorological Department.

On Saturday evening the department issued a bulletin on the amounts of rain which fell in the previous 24 hours. It said that Amman received an average of 24.8 mm, Salt 45 mm, Ramtha 20 mm, Ma'raq 16.5 mm, Ajloun 57 mm, Na'our 28 mm, Jerash 28 mm and Irbid 24.4 mm.

The bad weather conditions and the rain have caused the blockage of a number of roads in the Kingdom, according to the Public Security Department. In a statement issued Saturday, the department said that the Madaba-Rumail road was closed due to flooding and that the Zarqa-Tawahin Al Udwah road was blocked due to landslides. The road between Amman and Na'our was hardly passable due to poor visibility caused by fog.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said that rain which fell over high regions during February has exceeded the annual average, except for in Madaba and the northern regions of the Kingdom. He said that the rain will have a positive effect on harvests and added that these should be enough for winter and summer crops.

Ministry postpones vaccination campaign

An intensive campaign to vaccinate children against measles and to provide pregnant women with the tetanus toxoid vaccine was put off Friday night at the last moment due to bad weather conditions in Jordan, according to the Health Ministry. The ministry issued a statement saying that the campaign, which was scheduled to be launched on Saturday will start at a later date. The vaccination campaign is being launched under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

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Tibet: Sunshine on the roof of the world

Apert from the Sahara Desert, Tibet is the sunniest place in the world. Its high altitude is harnessing this natural resource for cooking, heating and growing vegetables — and for operating the herders' new television sets. Sun Magazine is a journalist with the China Features news service, and wrote this article especially for Earthscan.

PEKING, China — Things in Tibet are looking up — at least as far as the sun is concerned. Instead of searching the ground for dried-out dung to burn, Tibetans are now using their gaze toward the sun, a new source of energy for cooking, heating and greenhouse gardening.

In Tibet's Jiangga village in Dui-longqing county, all peasants and herdsmen now use this invaluable fuel to cook. Setting foot in the village, which in the past was obscured by the smoke of burning cow dung, visitors are fascinated by the scene.

In front of the house of each of the village's 27 families, an object with silvery-white heat-absorbing panels glimmers in the sunshine. A mirror with reflecting coating or metal plates collects sunrays, focusing them on a cooking pot. Steam wafts from the simmering rice.

But what about cloudy days? In Tibet these do not appear to be much of a problem. According to experts, only one place in the

world gets more sunshine, and that is the Sahara desert in Africa.

On average the Tibetan sun shines, strong and bright, for 3,000 hours per year. Clear mountain air, a high altitude (4,000 metres), and a relatively low latitude combine to produce a sunny plateau on the "roof of the world."

Jiangga is the first model village set up in Tibet to demonstrate the use of solar energy. "These gadgets are very good," said Qiongcailuobu, owner of one of Tibet's 2,000 solar heaters and stoves. He lights up with pleasure, knowing that on sunny days 3.5 litres of water can be boiled within 15 minutes. Rice for four people takes just 20 minutes.

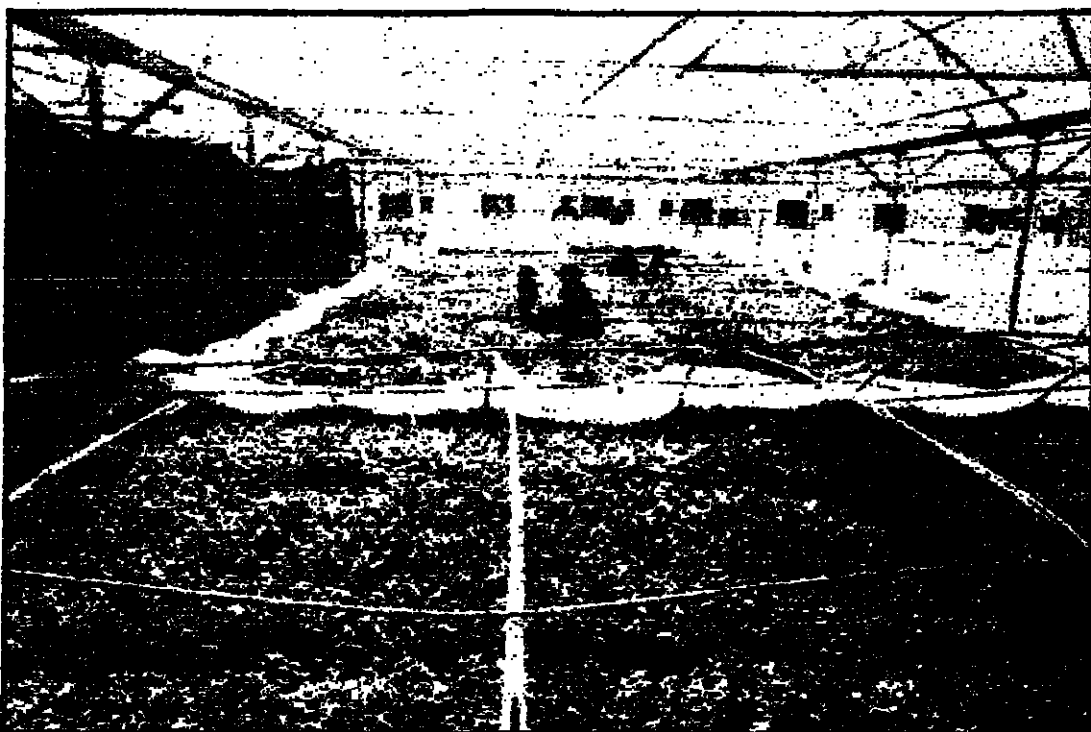
Three Jiangga families have moved into solar heated houses, and a solar energy bath house has been opened to serve all the villagers. "Since our village began to use solar energy in October 1984," says Qiongcailuobu, a Jiangga resident, "we no longer have to go around collecting cow dung for cooking and heating."

In Qiongcailuobu's solar house, an indoor temperature of around 15 degrees Centigrade (59 degrees Fahrenheit) is maintained, while outside is a world of ice and snow. He is now an advocate of the new solar technology. "It has made a great difference in our lives," he says. Three or four square metres of solar panels have enabled him to do away with the smoky fires which formerly irritated eyes and lungs.

Scientists in Tibet began to conduct experiment using solar energy in the 1950s. More than 57.3 million have been invested in research to date.

Conspicuous among Tibet's solar installations are its many hothouses. Constructed of earth and stone walls and a glass roof, the hothouses are sufficiently warmed by the sun to grow vegetables all year round — even when outdoor temperatures plummet to below freezing.

Plastic sheds are built by covering a domed house frame with transparent plastic film. In areas of severe cold, a smaller shed is constructed within a bigger one to raise the inside temperature. Such sheds are warm enough to grow vegetables year round, and are less expensive to make than greenhouses.



Tibet: a solar energy greenhouse on the "roof of the world" (Photo by China Features)

Tibet has already covered an area of 300,000 square metres with solar energy hothouses and plastic sheds. It is estimated that each square metre can produce 15 to 50 kilograms of vegetables per year, helping to ease local shortages.

Solar energy bath houses, of which there are now 140, are also gaining popularity. Each has a solar energy collector which, coated with a heat-absorbing black

medium, is used to gather the sun-rays to heat enough water for five or six people to bathe in.

To capitalise on Tibet's great solar potential, a research institute has been set up in Lhasa and a solar energy experimental station has been built in Xigaze. The station will serve as a base for Tibet's solar research and training, and acts as an information centre.

Stoves, warm homes and off-season tomatoes are not the only

manifestations of Tibet's solar revolution. Solar energy storage batteries are beginning to supply night lighting in some pastoral areas.

Being portable, the solar batteries are put to other uses. Tibetan herders are not just coming in from the cold; they now have battery-operated televisions and tape recorders to help pass the winter nights — Earthscan feature.

Godfathers rule OK?

What is life like in a small Italian village ruled by the Mafia? Alan Friedman took a car to Quindici in the south. His report:

HAVE YOU ever wondered what life might be like in a tiny village in the south of Italy, a village which is ruled by the Mafia? To find out, just hire a car in Naples and drive 35 miles due east, up steep and curving hill roads, into the rough terrain of the Apennine mountain range. There, if you ignore the warnings of the local Carabinieri — "Don't go to that town. It is squalid" — you will come to the village of Quindici, where 3,000 inhabitants live in relative poverty, earning a living by cultivating hazelnuts.

For 25 years, Quindici has been run like a medieval fiefdom by one family — the Grazianos. Over the years its members have served as mayor only to be arrested in rapid succession for murder or conspiracy or collusion with the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia. A few weeks ago, however, the brave citizenry of Quindici stopped cowering, emerged from their broken-down houses of grey and pink stone and, with the support of the Italian state, held a free election — the first since 1960 — to choose an untainted city council.

Welcome to Quindici: the village that refused to die.

In recent weeks the village has received national media attention. It has been billed as a place where the Camorra has been beaten by an unusual coalition of Communists, Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans, an assortment of parties which does not, as a rule, share a ticket.

The mayor-elect of Quindici is 55-year-old Mrs. Olga Santanelli, who runs the town's only pharmacy. Mrs. Santanelli is less than 5ft tall, dresses in black and has never before had political aspirations. She joined the Christian Democrat Party only a few weeks before the historic election of January 12, when her coalition, with its emblem of the scales of justice, triumphed over the opposition by 834 votes to 667. The opposition, although it did not contain a single member of the Graziano clan, was seen as representing the old traditions.

If you listened only to the citizens of Quindici you would think the Graziano family was philanthropy incarnate. A state official in nearby Avellino explains that "the Grazianos lavished money on selected citizens of Quindici, just like a feudal lord would dispense largesse."

So bad was the reputation of the Graziano family that in 1983, Mr. Sandro Ferini, then President of Italy, personally stepped in to dismiss the then mayor, Raffaele Graziano. But despite the view of Italian officials that Mr. Graziano was a key ally of Mr. Raffaele Cutolo, the leader of the new Camorra, the people of Quindici will not say a word against the Grazianos. "We only know that they were good administrators," says a municipal employee, adding that "if they had other activities we did not know about them, and besides, it was none of our business."

If you listened only to the citizens of Quindici you would think the Graziano family was philanthropy incarnate. A state official in nearby Avellino explains that "the Grazianos lavished money on selected citizens of Quindici, just like a feudal lord would dispense largesse." When they were not being generous with their subjects in Quindici the Grazianos were, it appears, co-operating with the Camorra, an organisation known for murder, extortion and embezzlement of state funds.

The first Graziano to become Mayor of Quindici was Fiore, who took office in 1960. For 12 years he ruled the town as a kind of benevolent dictator, until, one day in 1972, while he was sitting at a local football match, a man with a revolver shot him repeatedly at close range.

For four years the town went without a mayor and then Raffaele Graziano, Fiore's brother, took over. Raffaele seems to have been a Godfather figure, and his involvement with the Camorra got him arrested on murder charges. But he was acquitted and was once re-elected mayor from a prison cell.

When Raffaele was dismissed by the Italian President, he fled to Switzerland. Soon afterwards, in June 1983, the blitz against the Camorra saw hundreds of arrests in the Naples area. Last year, Raffaele Graziano was arrested in Geneva, extradited, tried and convicted of organised criminal activities. Despite this, it is impossible to find anyone in Quindici who will even imply that Raffaele was not a "good administrator."

Take, for example, the village priest, Father Domenico Amalia, known affectionately as "Don Mimmi". Was Raffaele Graziano involved with the Camorra? "Here he seemed a good person, a generous person. I suppose he might have had a split personality," says the leader of the

Roman Catholic community of Quindici.

But surely, Don Mimmi, the Graziano family was part of the Camorra? "I think there are no more Camorristi here in Quindici than elsewhere. And one does not see the Camorra." Seated in his drawing room, a wood fire belching smoke into the house, Don Mimmi leans forward and almost whispers: "You must understand that the Camorra moves about at night, in the shadows, in the dark."

After the disappearance of Raffaele, the next Graziano to take office was 23-year-old Eugenio, a nephew. Eugenio held office for 28 days in the autumn of 1984. Then he was arrested on charges ranging from accessory to murder to extortion.

The last Graziano to take the hot seat at Quindici town hall was Carmine, who was not yet 21 when he became mayor in January 1985. Pledging that "I am not with the Camorra", the young Carmine, a part-time law student at the University of Naples, lasted 73 days before resigning. Unshaven, Carmine Graziano sits sipping coffee in his mother's kitchen in Quindici, and reflects on his brief political career.

"I was too immature to be in politics, but I wanted to prove something. Of course when the Carabinieri accused me of being in the Camorra I resigned in protest," he explains. His mother says her son, the ex-mayor, "is a good boy. He studies hard."

With the resignation of Carmine, the 25 years of Graziano rule came to a close in Quindici and a special commissioner moved in. Dr. Costantino Ippolito, the vice-president of nearby Avellino who supervised January's elections, says his first step was to "reinforce police visibility, to show the people that the state would protect their democratic right to a free vote."

And so, with much fanfare and not a little trepidation, the town's chemist led a slate of 16 candidates to victory. Quindici is a small place, so you would have had to be local to distinguish some of the names of the ballot. For example, the mayor-elect, Olga Santanelli, was one of five Santanellis (two Santanellis, of different parties, had the same Christian name, Salvatore). There were six Scibellis as candidates, including two Carmine Scibellis.

The new mayor of Quindici agreed to be interviewed by the Financial Times and within 30 minutes she had assembled in her shop several members of the new town council, including two other Santanellis, one a Socialist and the other a Communist. The new politicians spoke proudly of the 150 graduates from Quindici, although they noted that more than 50 per cent are unemployed. They spoke of emigrants from Quindici, saying there are "little Quindici" communities in London, Boston and Frankfurt, all reminding earnings to the village.

Even though they are all members of the coalition which beat the Camorra, no one would speak ill of the Graziano family. Mr. Salvatore Santanelli of the Socialist Party did say that "the blood of the underworld is two steps from where we sit." But the others, seated on little wooden stools in Olga's shop, looked uneasy at this comment.

Then the mayor-elect was asked if the election proved that 25 years of Camorra rule had finished, that the Grazianos had finally been beaten. The shop suddenly fell silent. No one moved for what seemed an eternity.

Could the silence be taken as a comment, the new mayor was asked. "Our silence is a comment, yes," replied the brave Olga Santanelli, indicating that the interview was over.

From the narrow hill road which winds into the mountains about Quindici, one sees only a collection of houses with battered tile roofs. In a tratoria less than a mile from Quindici the owner winces slightly when asked to comment on the election. Like the Carabinieri up the road, he asks: "What do you want to go there for?" Finally, when pressed, he gives his view: "Ah, Quindici. What a place. Mafia. Camorra. It is another world. Frankly, when it comes to Quindici, we just don't want to know." — Financial Times news feature.

Japanese cyclists face 'parking' problems

Asahi News Service

TOKYO — Ken Suzuki used to travel to and from his office in Tokyo by driving to the train station closest to his suburban home and riding the train, like millions of other commuters.

Five years ago he began riding a bicycle to the station. It was quieter, cheaper, healthier, more fun and easier to find a parking space. He would simply leave the bike on the sidewalk in front of the station.

But what was good for Suzuki was good for millions of other commuters around the nation. So many bicycles now clog the sidewalks around train stations that the issue has been debated in the national Diet (Parliament).

A staggering 57 million Japanese, about half of the population, own bicycles. The government's Management and Coordination Agency estimates that about 860,000 of them — 410,000 in the Tokyo area — illegally park their bikes every working day.

Naturally, pedestrians, shop owners and motorists have complained. The bikes clog store entrances, spill over into the street, block traffic and have prompted the coming of a new phrase, "ginrin kogai," which means silver-wheeled public hazard.

The Diet tried to deal with the flood by passing a bicycle safety law in 1981. Based on that law, about 100 cities passed laws that ban bikes from within 200 to 500 metres of train stations. Violators may return from work to find their transportation home hauled off by the police.

The western Tokyo suburb of

Kokubunji city opened a free bicycle parking lot in front of the station. Yokohama placed "No Parking" signs in front of the city's major stations.

But suburban sidewalks across the country continue to be packed with millions of bicycles. Urban real estate in Japan is so expensive that most municipalities cannot afford to build parking lots. Those that are built are often not filled because many commuters think they are too far away or charge too much in parking fees.

In Yokohama, where an estimated 70,000 bicycle commuters must compete for 32,000 authorised parking spaces, the congestion has moved from in front of the station to nearby alleys and sidewalks.

In Tokyo alone, police last year seized 350,000 silver-wheeled hazards from "No Parking" zones. One suburb, however, has developed a solution to the problem. Ago City, 38 kilometres from downtown Tokyo, set up a rental service in the local train station.

Commuters heading to Tokyo in the mornings take their rented bicycles to the station, where others coming to school or work in Ago take them away from the station. In the evening, the flow is reversed. The service only costs 2,500 yen (\$12.50) a month and has halved the number of parking spaces required.

But Ago City is exceptional. One commuter said, "It is ironic that bicycle riders should come up against parking problems. You can put a 300 or more bikes in a single parking space for a car."

Vienna celebrates renovation of Secession House

By Stephanie Nebelhay

Reuter

VIENNA — An exhibition hall built by rebel artists nearly 90 years ago has been restored thanks to a wave of nostalgia for life in Vienna at the turn of the century.

The dazzling white, cube-shaped Secession House, with a golden dome of laurel leaves, has just reopened after a \$2 million facelift.

The hall was built by a group of artists known as the Secessionists, led by the painter Gustav Klimt, when they broke with academic painters in 1898. Early visitors were shocked by its simple interior and natural lighting.

Sensual and controversial works by Klimt, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoschka and others were exhibited there. Composer Gustav Mahler and architects Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffman also gathered in the hall to exchange ideas.

Its reopening just off the Ringstrasse, the boulevard encircling central Vienna, follows a major exhibition of Jugendstil — art nouveau — at the nearby Kuensterhaus.

The nostalgic "Dream and Reality" show there, which boosted Austrian tourism by drawing a record 600,000 people in six months last year, transferred this week to the Paris Pompidou Centre.

Architect Adolf Krshanitz, who headed the renovation, said a renewed passion for the Secessionist movement and their avant garde works brought the

project to fruition. "For ten years it was not possible to get the money to renovate the building. It became possible because of the nostalgia wave for Jugendstil," Krshanitz told Reuters.

"We got the approval just about the time the 'Dream and Reality' exhibit opened here last year," he added.

Klimt helped architect Josef Maria Olbrich to design what they called a temple for art. The house, a masterpiece of Jugendstil, was destroyed by bombs in the final months of World War II.

Restored in 1964 — but not to its original form — it has been in bad shape in recent years.

Krshanitz and his team of 200 workers took just one year to insulate and restore the building, using photographs and some of Olbrich's drawings to reproduce the exact colours and lay-out of the original hall.

Pointing to the Secessionist motto hanging above the door — "To every age its art, to every art its freedom" — Krshanitz said its idealism seemed to have appeal today.

Adolf Hitler had the words taken down during World War II but they were reinstated after the end of the war. Austria had been absorbed into the German reich in 1938.

Krshanitz said: "Austria's history has been problematic, such as in the Nazi era. Now people are turning to a history which is further back and more positive — the time around 1900."



Sylvester Stallone, left, who portrays Rocky Balboa in Rocky IV, lands a body blow to the mid-section of Swedish-born actor Dolph Lundgren, who portrays Russian boxer Ivan Drago in the film. According to star-salary watchers in Hollywood, Stallone received \$12 million for going back into the boxing ring in Rocky IV.

Men get the big money in Hollywood

By Ronald Clarke

Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Sylvester Stallone was paid \$12 million and a share of the profits for going back into the boxing ring in the film "Rocky IV", according to film executives and agents.

Meryl Streep, winner of two Hollywood Oscars, had to make do with \$3 million for her latest epic, "Out of Africa". And, Streep, who has just been nominated for an Oscar for best actress for "Out of Africa", received half the salary of her co-star Robert Redford — \$6 million — although as Danish writer Leak Dinesen she had the dominant role. The film received 10 other Oscar nominations though Redford was not nominated as best actor.

The Hollywood adage "it's the men who pull in the public" still holds strong.

Dustin Hoffman's price for appearing in a new film, "La Brea", is said by people involved in the negotiations to be \$6 million plus a giant 22.5 per cent share of the box office revenue.

Executives, agents and film analysts, who keep a close watch on star salaries, said they saw little chance of women catching up. Streep's salary, which like most over the million-dollar mark also includes a percentage of the film's profits, is on the level of that of "Conan the Barbarian's" Arnold

Schwarzenegger and comedian Chevy Chase, the experts said. In an industry where 70 per cent of the 60,000 members of the Screen Actors Guild Trade Union earn less \$2,000 a year Warren Beatty also receives \$6 million a film, followed by Jack Nicholson and Eddie Murphy, who receive \$5 million each.

Among the female stars, Goldie Hawn is also said to receive \$3 million a film, followed by Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field, Jane Fonda, Kathleen Turner and Jessica Lange with \$2 million each. "One of the problems facing women is the payers are mostly men," said producer Barbara Klein, president of Women in Film, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lot of women in the film and television industries.

"I am sure people will go to see Shirley MacLaine, Jane Fonda and Meryl Streep without the attraction of a big male star, just as Judy Garland, June Allyson and Lana Turner were crowd pullers of an earlier generation," she said. "But women producers are seldom trusted with films with budgets of over \$5 million, even though these films are returning the money. The blockbusters go to men."

Barbara Streisand, whose earnings from her last film "Yentl" are not known because she was also the producer and director, said of her experience in making

the film: "I think men are allowed to be obsessed by their work, but women are allowed to be obsessed only by a man."

Studio after studio turned her down, she said, before she finally found a distributor.

Film market analysts and a spokesman for the Screen Actors Guild said top stars earn what the backers believe the market will bear.

Stallone, who received a flat fee of \$12 million for "Over the Top", a new film on arm wrestling, and could eventually collect up to \$20 million with his share of the profits for "Rambo", tells people who ask him if he is worth so much money: "If people offer me such big sums, I'm silly enough to accept them."

But film actors are only as good as their last film. A box office flop for Stallone, the creator of the "Rocky" story as well as the star, would send his salary down immediately.

A number of male stars have taken salary cuts in the last three years because their films have not lived up to the promise of their earlier ones.

Burt Reynolds, who became the first actor to break through the \$5 million salary barrier — for "Cannonball" in 1980 — said: "I agree the amount is gross. It would be even more gross to refuse it."

But one of the biggest Hollywood salary coups remains the \$3.7 million plus a percentage of

the profits paid to Marlon Brando for being on the screen for less than 20 minutes in "Superman". "He thinks acting is pretty stupid, but it pays him well," Brando's 23-year-old son, Miko Brando, said.

According to statistics collected by the screen actors guild, for 1984, the last year for which complete figures are available: 46 per cent of speaking roles were for supporting actors 23 per cent were for leading actors 19 per cent were for supporting actresses and only 12 per cent were for leading actresses.

"Fewer roles means women have a tougher time finding roles and so they have to accept less money," one actress who has been in Hollywood for 25 years said.

The guild, which recently elected actress Patty Duke as its president, said actresses usually earn most when they are under 30 or over 80. Men earn most between 40 and 80, it said, giving them a much longer life in films.

Klein, who is working on a television series in which all the stars would be men trying to raise a family, said one of the goals of women in film is to ensure women are given equal treatment with men and are treated on the screen as human beings and not simply as sex objects.

"But as long as industry as a whole pays women less than men, it seems Hollywood will follow suit," she said.



Hollywood top brass firmly believe that men are the biggest crowd pullers, and so they are paid far more than actresses like Meryl Streep (centre) who received only \$3 million for her leading role in Out of Africa, the same as that paid to an up and coming actor Arnold



Schwarzenegger (left) in Conan the Barbarian. At the other extreme is Marlon Brando (right) who made a neat \$3.7 million, plus a percentage of profits, for being on the screen in less than 20 minutes in Superman.



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Australia III clinches 12 metre championship

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Australia III, the yacht favoured to defend the America's Cup in 1987, sailed to a third impressive victory Saturday to clinch the World 12-Metre Yachting Championships.

With one race in the seven-race series to go, Australia III has an unassailable lead in the titles over its stable mate Australia II, winner of the 1983 America's Cup, with New Zealand KZ5 in provisional third place overall.

Australia II was second in Saturday's sixth heat with Canada's True North third and America II fourth.

The easy Australia III win has sent a clear message to America's Cup challengers that the Australians will be no pushover in the 1987 America's Cup challenge.

Australia III, sailing in its home waters with Colin Beashel at the helm, took advantage of shifting winds on the 24.5-nautical-mile course off Fremantle to lead the 14-boat fleet around all but one mark.

The winged-keel Australia III started well, picked the most favourable left hand side of the course and led by 12.6 seconds from French Kiss and America II at the first windward mark.

Australia III revelled in the light 10-knot breeze and smooth seas. On the fourth windward leg,

French Kiss went to the left side of the course, picked up a solid windshift and headed Australia III by 13 seconds at the next mark.

But the Australian boat, which has dominated the series with three wins, a second, a fourth and a sixth place, outsailed the French boat on the next spinnaker leg, rounding the mark first with Australia II in second place, ahead of French Kiss.

The final race of the series will decide second and third places between Australia II and New Zealand KZ5.

The "fantastic plastic" from New Zealand as the world's first fiberglass 12 metre is called, had a bad race Saturday, finishing seventh.

Skipper Chris Dickson misjudged the start, beat the starting gun and had to go about and restart. This put him two minutes behind Australia III at the first mark and he was never able to get back in the race.

The Italian boats Victory '83, Italia and Azzurra, which have had unhappy series, fared better Saturday.

Victory '83, from yacht club Italiano finished fifth; Azzurra, from yacht club Costa Smeralda finished eighth; and Italia, also from yacht club Italiano finished ninth.

After Thursday's racing in which Victory '83 was dismantled and Italia withdrew after a crewman was swept overboard, one of the club's sponsors Giorgio Gucci remarked, "All we can do now is call in the priest."

America II, one of the New York Yacht Club's possible America's Cup challengers, had a disappointing day again Saturday.

After picking a windshift on the second-to-last downwind leg, skipper John Koliuss pulled to within 33 seconds of Australia III at the last mark.

But Koliuss' luck did not hold, Australia II tacked on top of him and True North picked up a favourable to finish in third place 15.6 seconds ahead.

Koliuss has sailed a consistent series, but bad luck in the shape of ripped headsails and a man overboard Thursday has dogged the American boat which has finished second twice, fourth twice, sixth and seventh.

America II lies in fourth place on the overall scoring, which allows each skipper to discard his worst race. A good performance in Sunday's final race could see it improve its position in the final result.

No decisions in F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Freezing weather, bone-hard pitches and some brave displays by teams from the lower divisions meant none of the matches in the fifth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup were resolved Saturday.

Luton and Arsenal produced the best soccer of the day in their 2-2 draw on the artificial pitch at Kenilworth Road while Liverpool needed a disputed penalty against York to salvage a 1-1 draw against the Third Division side.

Peterborough, the only Fourth Division team left, went ahead twice at home against Brighton, but the Second Division side equalised immediately both times and will be confident of winning the replay at the Goldstone ground.

Second Division Millwall, who reached the quarter-finals last season, look likely to repeat the performance after drawing 0-0 at First Division Southampton.

Sub-zero temperatures led to the postponement of the matches between West Ham and Cup holders Manchester United, Derby and Sheffield Wednesday and Watford and Bury.

Luton midfielder Ricky Hill gave Luton a superb start against Arsenal when he created space in the area in the eighth minute to slot home left-footed.

Seven minutes later Arsenal's Ian Allison used his left foot, and the foot of a post, to equalise and the London team went ahead in the 27th minute when young defender David Rocastle headed home a Tony Woodcock lob.

But Mick Harford, the 27-year-old forward often touted as a possible member of England's World Cup squad, shot his 17th goal of the season six minutes before the break after a mistake by the Arsenal defence to make it 2-2.

The second half, although fiercely contested, was goalless and the teams will replay on Wednesday.

York, with a distinct flash of deja vu, will not be relishing their trip to Liverpool's Anfield ground

for their replay on Tuesday.

In last year's fifth round the Yorkshire team grabbed a creditable 1-1 draw against Liverpool on an ice-bound pitch — and were then thrashed 7-0 in the replay.

Saturday, after a first half enlivened only by a blinding save from Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the match burst into life with two goals in four minutes.

Tony Canham, a former railwayman, hoisted a speculative lob into the Liverpool area and Gary Ford shot home from 12 metres amid scenes of near-hysteria on the York terraces.

But Liverpool are the masters of the quick counter punch, although this time they needed the help of a disputed penalty.

Certainly a hand made contact with the ball in the York area but the home players denied all responsibility. Denmark's Jan Molby ended all the arguments by notching his sixth penalty of the season for the former European Cup holders.

Peterborough looked set to equal their best-ever F.A. Cup performance — a quarter-final place in 1965 — when they led Brighton 2-1 with only seven minutes left.

But Brighton substitute Steve Jacobs scored from close in on the snow-covered pitch to cancel out goals from Greig Shephard and Errington Kelly. Dean Saunders scored Brighton's first goal.

In Scotland mighty Celtic, winners of the Cup 27 times, suffered a shock in the 50th minute when they went 1-0 down at home to the part-timers of Queen's Park.

But the Second Division side, who play their home games at the National Stadium of Hampden Park, had their dreams shattered in the space of 10 minutes as the Cup holders scored twice to run out 2-1 winners.

Champions Aberdeen scored their expected victory over Second Division Arbroath, the margin being 1-0. But Kilmarnock, riding high in the First Division, drew 1-1 at Premier Division Dundee United.

Werder blows early lead but stays on top of league

BONN (R) — West German leaders Werder Bremen threw away a two-goal lead and with it the chance of their seventh straight win as bad weather forced the postponement of more than half of Saturday's league programme.

But the Bremen side retain their four-point lead in the table after a 2-2 draw in Nuremberg as neither of their nearest rivals could gain ground.

Champions Bayern Munich were held to a goalless draw in Hamburg and Borussia Mönchengladbach's match in Cologne was one of five victims of the icy conditions.

Werder looked to be coasting to yet another win when Thomas Wolter scored his second goal of the game in a 2-0 lead on the hour.

But the match turned dramatically 10 minutes later when Bremen's Austrian sweeper Bruno Pezzey was sent off for repeated foul play.

Reiner Geyer reduced the arrears in the 76th minute and Dieter Eckstein pulled the scores level six minutes later, leaving Werder to hang on desperately for a point in the closing stages.

Bayern had scored five goals in each of their last two games but they created few chances on a frozen pitch at Hamburg.

The home side had more of the play, especially in the first half, but Bayern wasted the best opportunity 14 minutes from time when striker Roland Wohlfarth saw Uli Stein off his line but his lob failed to clear the keeper.

The most popular scorer of the day was undoubtedly former national striker Klaus Fischer. His goal in Bochum's 3-2 win over Kaiserslautern came on the day he became only the third player to make 500 Bundesliga appearances.

It was his 263rd league goal — only the now-retired Gerd Mueller has scored more.

Pole vault dispute mars Millrose Games, Coghlan upset in mile run

NEW YORK (AP) — American Billy Olson, holder of the world indoor best, won a controversial pole vault event in the Wanamaker Millrose Games Friday night, as outdoor world record holder Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union failed to clear a height — and protested vehemently.

Olson, who set the indoor best last week at 5.93 metres, won at 5.8 metres — the first 10-foot (5.79 metre) vault in Madison Square Garden history — after he had been given an extra jump at a lower height. Dave Volz, another American, also cleared 5.8 metres but Olson was declared the winner because he made it on his first attempt.

But Volz, who cleared 5.8 metres on his third try, will get credit for the Garden and meet records because remeasurements placed Olson's jump at 5.79 metres and Volz at 5.8 metres when Olson sailed over the bar, he fiddled it slightly downward. Volz flew over the bar cleanly.

The two then had the bar raised to a world indoor best of 5.94 metres, but each missed badly. Volz suffered a leg cramp on his second attempt and quit, and the tired Olson failed on three tries.

Bubka, whose outdoor record is 6 metres and who also has cleared 5.95 metres outdoors and 5.92 metres indoors, took four jumps — he also was given an additional jump — and missed them all.

The furor was triggered when Olson and Joe Dial, the American outdoor record holder at 5.85 metres, who has vaulted 5.91 metres indoors, were given an extra jump each. They had complained that they had been bothered by a photographer while attempting 5.61 metres. Bubka's older brother, Vasily, was refused another jump after complaining about the same problem.

Dial, competing with borrowed poles when his own didn't arrive, also failed to clear a height, missing four times at 5.61 metres.

When Vasily Bubka was refused the extra jump, Sergei threatened to quit the competition. But officials mollified Sergei by allowing him an extra attempt.

Ljudmila Potanich, the interpreter for the five-member Soviet contingent competing in the Millrose Games, talked Sergei into continuing, even though meet officials refused to grant Vasily another try.

When Olson and Dial were

awarded an extra jump, that exacerbated the situation.

"The American sportsmen received additional attempts and that was against international rules," Sergei said through the interpreter. "I don't find the reasons that the officials gave for these additional runs very convincing. The reasons given by the referees sounded more like subterfuge than reasons."

"My impressions of the competition leave much to be desired," Sergei added. "I never expected the situation to be like this... very unpleasant."

"No matter what country in which a competition takes place, the rules are the same. They can't be broken."

Earlier, Marcus O'Sullivan, unbeaten this season, handed fellow Irishman Eamonn Coghlan his first defeat in seven Wanamaker Mile races.

O'Sullivan, the former Villanova standout who is having the finest season of his career, held off Coghlan's bid for victory with a strong stretch run to win in 3 minutes, 56.05 seconds.

Coghlan, the winner in 1977, 1979-81, 1983 and 1985 — he did not compete in 1982 and 1984 because of injuries — finished second in 3:56.34.

The loss prevented Coghlan from gaining an unprecedented seventh triumph in the Wanamaker Mile. He shares the record of six with Glenn Cunningham, the winner in 1933-35 and 1937-39. Cunningham finished third in 1936 and second in 1940, his final race.

Friday night, Mark Fricker set a fast early pace and held the lead for the first nine laps of the 11-lap race.

Then O'Sullivan, who had ended Coghlan's 15-race indoor mile winning streak last month, kicked past Fricker with two laps left. And O'Sullivan held the advantage for his fourth victory of the year.

The loss was the fourth straight — three at one mile and the other at two miles — for the 33-year-old Coghlan, who has been bothered by an intestinal virus this season.

Another Irishman, Ray Flynn finished third in 3:58.10.

Three other runners also broke four minutes, with Abdi Bile of Somalia fourth in 3:58.16, followed by American record holder Steve Scott at 3:59.13 and Jim Spivey at 3:59.79.

Sydney Maree, the American

outdoor record holder at 1,500 metres, 2,000 metres and 5,000 metres, was last in the field of eight. He has been slowed by a hamstring injury and a calf problem this season.

Earlier, Canada's Ben Johnson matched the second-fastest time ever in the men's 60-yard dash and Gwen Torrance scored a stunning upset over Evelyn Ashford in the women's 60.

Johnson, unbeaten on the indoor track and field Grand Prix circuit this season, streaked to victory in 6.04 seconds. The time matched the Garden record set by quadruple Olympic champion Carl Lewis of the United States in 1983 and was only two-hundredths of a second off the world indoor best of 6.02 established by Lewis two years ago at Dallas.

In posting his fifth triumph of the Grand Prix season, Johnson, the 1985 World Cup 100-metre champion and Olympic 100-metre bronze medalist, beat a standout field.

Sam Graddy of the United States, the Olympic silver medalist in the 100, finished second in 6.08, with compatriot Lee McRae third in 6.10 and compatriot Emmitt King fourth in 6.11.

Only Lewis and Stanley Floyd of the United States, who has run 6.04 twice, have run the 60 as fast or faster than Johnson.

In the women's 60, Torrance set a collegiate record of 6.57 in handing Ashford her first defeat in two starts this season.

The impressive victory also made Torrance the third-fastest performer indoors, behind Ashford, owner of the world indoor best at 6.54, and Alice Brown, who has run 6.56.

This time, Ashford, the 1984 Olympic 100-metre gold medalist, wound up second in 6.65, just ahead of Olympic bronze medalist Merlene Ottey-Page of Jamaica (6.69).

There also were upsets in the men's and women's 60-yard high hurdles.

In the men's race, Canadian champion Mark McKoy became the no. 3 performer in indoor history, winning in 6.93 and beating Greg Foster.

Foster, the Olympic silver medalist and 1983 world champion, was slow out of the blocks after false-starting once and never could seriously challenge McKoy, the British Commonwealth Games champion.

Bird's last-second heroics save Celtics

NEW YORK (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers learned that there is no one better than Larry Bird when there's a game on the line and the clock is winding down.

Bird sent Friday night's Boston-Portland game into overtime with a 15-foot jumper with six seconds left in regulation, then hit a 10-footer with three seconds remaining in overtime to give the Celtics a 120-119 NBA victory.

The two-time Most Valuable Player finished with 47 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists.

"I got fouled three times and I

finally hit the shot," Bird said of his final shot. "That was an excellent basketball game to watch and we're very happy to get out of here with a win."

"Not very much about him surprises me," Boston Coach K.C. Jones said. "Tonight, though, I saw more left-hand shots go down for him than I think I've ever seen. It was Larry Bird at his best."

Portland battled Boston, winners of 15 of its last 16 games, for 53 minutes. The game had 22 ties and 17 lead changes, including four lead changes in the final minute.

Jerome Kersey gave Portland, losers of five straight, a 119-118 lead with a spinning 5-foot bank shot with 17 seconds left in overtime. After a timeout, the Celtics worked the ball to Bird, who drove the center of the key and sank the winning jumper.

Kersey's driving lay-up at the buzzer rolled around the rim and fell out.

Kiki Vandeweghe, who scored a season-high 38 points for Portland, had missed a 10-foot bank

shot at the buzzer to force the overtime after Bird tied it at the end of regulation.

The Celtics led by as many as eight points in the third quarter, but the Blazers rallied behind the play of Vandeweghe, Steve Colter and Clyde Drexler.

Dennis Johnson added 29 points and Robert Parish 20 for the Celtics. Kersey, starting his first NBA game, scored 21, while Drexler added 20 for the Blazers.

In other NBA games, it was Detroit 119, Dallas 110; Indiana 104, Chicago 88; Phoenix 112, Denver 95; and Los Angeles Lakers 141, Atlanta 117.

Los Angeles outscored Atlanta 40-22 in the third period to break open a close game.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar scored 25 points, Earvin "Magic" Johnson added 18 points and 16 assists and James Worthy had 20 points for Los Angeles. Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins led all scorers with 29 points.

Becker falls victim to lanky Czech

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Milan Streber of Czechoslovakia, in a major upset, defeated fourth-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany Friday in a third round match of the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Tournament.

Two women's third round matches also were played Friday night. American Anna Ivan eliminated fifth-seeded Zsuzsanna Gajdosik 6-4, 6-4. 7-6 (7-5) and seventh-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia beat Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4, 7-5.

Using a slashing service, the six-foot eight-inch (2.03 metres) Streber, playing top tennis with little success for only three years, since he was 19, beat the 1985 Wimbledon champion 7-6 (7-4),

6-3. "I expected good experience. I had nothing to lose," said the hard-hitting Streber after he broke Becker's service in the sixth game of the second set and then gave up only one point on his last two service games.

"He has a very, very fast service. Maybe his service is the fastest I ever played against," said Becker, the world's number 5 player. "I had a bad start and I had my chances but he's difficult to play against. His movement is so fast you can't see where the ball is going."

Earlier, West German teenager Steffi Graf, the second seed, and Yannick Noah of France, the men's sixth seed, won third round matches.

Graf, 16, squeaked past tall, hard-hitting Sara Gomer of Britain 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 while Noah swept aside American Tim Wilkison 6-2, 6-4.

"It was a tough match for me," said Graf, who is ranked fourth in the world. "Her serve was unbelievable, she played very well," she said of Gomer, number 77 in the world.

"I feel healthy. I hit the ball pretty well," said Noah, the seventh ranked men's player who is still remembered for winning the French Open in 1983.

"I think I can play well now. Everybody says I can and I feel I can," added Noah, who said he was getting more comfortable on hard courts.



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Third World dramatically boosts arms production

STOCKHOLM (R) — Third World countries have dramatically boosted their arms exports since the early 1970s and are increasingly selling weapons to the industrialized world, according to a study published Friday.

A book entitled "Arms Production in the Third World", the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Inc., has just published in its latest volume.

But the increase still showed, even if these two countries were excluded, the list of Third World nations producing major weapons was still growing.

In Brazil, the largest Third World exporter, the arms industry has advanced that Brazilian weapons may soon go into production under license in the United States, in a reversal of the traditional relationship.

Mr. Thomas Ohlson, co-editor of the book with Mr. Michael Brzoska, told Reuters that U.S. companies were involved in advanced negotiations to build an armored car developed by a Brazilian firm.

He added: "This cooperation may eventually extend to the joint development of a new tank for the 1990s."

Mr. Ohlson said two U.S. companies were seeking a license to build a training aircraft, which a Brazilian manufacturer had already sold to Britain and Canada.

"Not so many years ago, such technology transfers would have been inconceivable," he added.

SIPRI, an independent body financed by the Swedish par-

liament, operates what it describes as the world's only public database on the international arms trade.

The study valued total Third World production of major weapons between 1950 and 1984 at \$12.7 billion, with rapid growth in the 1970s.

Since 1980, the largest eight producers — Israel, India, Brazil, Taiwan, Argentina, South Africa, South Korea and North Korea — accounted for over 90 per cent of Third World production of major weapons.

All types of conventional weapons, from pistol ammunition and ships to jets and guided missiles, were being produced although the more sophisticated technology was generally acquired under license from industrialized countries.

"It's still mainly mid-level technology," Mr. Ohlson said.

SIPRI put total exports of major weapons from the Third World between 1950 and 1984 at \$1.57 billion, with a major surge between 1980 and 1984.

Brazil and Israel together accounted for more than 75 per cent of total exports, followed by South Korea, South Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Egypt and Argentina.

"Support emerges for the proposition that while arms production is primarily justified for political reasons — such as self-sufficiency — arms exports eventually become an economic necessity," Mr. Ohlson and Mr. Brzoska said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 8, '86 and ending Wednesday Feb. 12, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Par value

Banks & financial institutions

Jordan Islamic Bank	1724	3479	2.350	2.310	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	8120	19484	2.430	2.390	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4302	6343	1.500	1.510	1.000
Housing Bank	1280	1958	1.550	1.520	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	3197	6979	2.200	2.220	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	850	1326	1.570	1.560	1.000
Petra Bank	12058	34345	2.860	2.840	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1717	37985	23.000	22.250	5.000
Bank of Jordan	3055	53787	17.500	17.950	5.000
Arab Bank	1320	202176	151.000	154.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	13530	34709	2.590	2.550	1.000
Jordan Finance House	27650	23679	0.860	0.860	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	21869	22976	1.060	1.040	1.000
Islamic Investment House	2710	2643	0.990	0.980	1.000
Jordan Investment & Finance Corporation	14721	10347	1.200	1.200	1.000
Finance & Credit Corporation	42718	17488	0.920	0.910	1.000
National Financial Investments	44950	53930	1.200	1.200	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	48601	37247	0.740	0.740	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	50166	33556	0.640	0.680	1.000
Real Estate Financial	100	2300	20.000	23.000	1.000

Insurance

Arab Union International	822	814	0.990	0.990	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	1800	5053	2.860	2.800	1.000
REFCO Insurance	7212	4125	0.980	1.040	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	1762	2202	1.800	1.270	1.000
Jordan Insurance	956	10818	11.400	11.320	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	2175	4817	2.100	2.250	1.000
Al Arab Insurance & Reinsurance	18400	15988	0.860	0.870	1.000
Universal Insurance	250	213	0.800	0.850	1.000
Jordan Eagle	855	21375	24.000	25.000	10.000
Jordan Gulf	2162	1977	0.880	0.930	1.000

Services & Industries

Jordan Electric Power	13569	20173	1.490	1.480	1.000
National Shipping Lines	16425	12563	0.760	0.760	1.000
Jordan Dairy	2878	3401	1.190	1.180	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	8526	25774	3.000	3.040	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	57355	44254	0.760	0.770	1.000
Jordan Paper & Cardboard Factories	3771	9774	2.570	2.590	1.000
Jordan Phosphates Mines	7245	18100	2.500	2.500	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	36528	11710	0.310	0.320	1.000
National Industries	1070	835	0.800	0.780	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries	1200	1464	1.180	1.220	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	4140	16780	4.000	4.050	1.000
Alladin Industries	42050	31070	0.730	0.740	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	6296	3447	0.550	0.510	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes	216	2911	13.000	13.500	5.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	179856	164539	0.900	0.920	1.000
Arab International Hotels	77117	35062	0.420	0.450	1.000
Management and Consultation	200	48	0.470	0.490	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	2800	10476	3.650	3.700	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	4900	4736	0.980	0.960	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	14700	17836	1.200	1.230	1.000
Chemical Industries	3500	3535	1.000	1.010	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches	700	481	0.680	0.690	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development & Investment	27310	40877	1.500	1.500	1.000
National Steel Industries	6000	7027	1.180	1.170	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1395	2565	1.810	1.850	1.000
Jordan Leasing Equipment	26196	19510	0.750	0.750	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	58184	54546	1.000	0.960	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	11150	6624	0.630	0.590	1.000
Arab Paper Converting & Trading	25100	7786	0.290	0.310	1.000
Petra for Projects & Leasing	19293	5735	0.790	0.800	1.000
Arab Development & Investment	6200	4890	0.720	0.700	1.000
Rafid Plastic Bags	16000	16800	1.050	1.050	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	7811	52267	6.670	6.680	5.000
Jordan Breweries	400	1300	3.300	3.300	1.000
Industrial, Commercial & Agricultural (Intaj)	4198	7726	1.830	1.850	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	201	1118	5.600	5.560	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	450	446	0.920	1.000	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Publishing & Distribution	1026	749	0.740	0.730	1.000
Grand total	1036888	1343534			

Debt fears mount as Mexico cuts oil price by \$5

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's decision Friday to cut oil prices by nearly \$5 has thrown its precarious economy into sharp relief and intensified the need for a quick solution to its debt problems.

Bankers in Mexico now feel that unless creditor banks can come to an agreement with Mexico they will be forced to accept emergency measures.

Phrases like "agreed default" and "involuntary concerned lending" are frequently heard as the oil market, on which Mexico depends heavily, continues to slump.

Diplomats said some U.S. customers had been preparing effectively to cancel their contracts with Mexico unless a cut was made.

The diplomats said January exports had fallen to about 1.25 million barrels a day (b/d) from the usual 1.5 million and earlier last week they were predicting February sales abroad would fall as low as one million b/d.

The new prices would earn Mexico just \$8 billion this year against nearly \$13.3 billion in 1985.

"To lose nearly half your oil income when you owe some \$10 billion this year in interest alone is very serious," said one European banker.

Mexico, a non-member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the world's fourth-biggest crude exporter, has seen the weighted average price of its oil fall by around \$8.5 a barrel in the last six weeks to around \$15 this month.

The situation is grave because Mexico relies on oil for as much as 75 per cent of the export income which it uses to pay interest on its \$97 billion debt.

Despite speculation to the contrary, officials here say Mexico has not yet made any concrete proposals to its creditors, nor has it begun talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a new austerity programme for 1986.

Both the central bank and the finance ministry have sharply denied money market rumours of an impending moratorium like that of 1982 when falling oil prices helped force Mexico to halt interest payments and spark the Latin American debt bomb.

Reports in the United States that Mexico has asked commercial banks for a six per cent ceiling on interest or more loans this year have not been confirmed in Mexico.

But independent economists increasingly feel that with the bulk of 1986 interest payments due in the first half of the year and no agreement likely under normal circumstances until around May, something has to be done fast.

"Unless agreement is reached by about April, Mexico looks like it will simply run out of money," said one banker.

No banker in Mexico has suggested an outright moratorium is likely or even possible.

Some find reason for optimism in the country's basic wealth, its huge oil reserves and the better medium-term prospects for oil.

But none sees any easy way out. "Mexico's creditors are going to have to swallow some very bitter medicine soon," said one U.S. banker.

Meanwhile, U.S. industry sources said Friday that Venezuela will no longer set official prices for its oil and instead will negotiate prices with individual oil companies.

The step would make Venezuela the first OPEC member to drop official prices, but the country has charged that other OPEC members secretly follow a similar policy.

Sources close to Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA denied that the policy change was the first step toward pulling out of OPEC.

The effect of the policy change could be a further drop in oil prices of \$4 to \$5 a barrel, industry sources estimate.

Benchmark oil grades are currently quoted at around \$16 a barrel.

Venezuela's decision was likened to changes made last year by Norway's state-owned Statoil, which has ceased to set official prices.

Venezuela is attempting to get out from under a huge \$34 billion foreign debt, and oil accounts for 95 per cent of its export earnings.

Banking sources said that Venezuela last week requested a delay in payment of \$923 million due as part of a debt rescheduling package.

Traders threaten default

On the spot market, crude oil faces turmoil as several trading companies have threatened default to avoid huge losses suffered during the recent dive in world prices, traders and brokers said in London Friday.

While only a handful of firms are involved at the moment, the knock-on effect could hit almost every trader involved in the highly speculative market for Britain's North Sea Brent grade, they told Reuters.

"The situation is very grave," said one trader.

Several firms had warned clients they could not meet obligations on sales or purchases of Brent, struck some time ago when prices had been anything up to twice present levels.

The present problems arise from huge lines of deals, known as "daisy chains."

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEB. 16, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until evening make sure that you do not force issues or take up practical matters, for they could turn out to be disappointing. Watch out for unexpected expenses.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Forget property and financial affairs today, and be more concerned with finding greater peace of mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make sure that your motives are good in going after your aims today, and keep out of trouble.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can accomplish very little today if you keep piling up little worries in your mind, so let go of them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Although you may act in a positive way to gain your aims, stumbling blocks may get into the path of your progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Not a good day to handle any important civic matters, so wait a better time for such. A bigwig may not be as helpful as you'd like.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Adding to present interests is not wise today, but make present ones work more efficiently for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your hunches may not be so good today, so use only your good mature judgment and come to right decisions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't go out in public today since others are apt to be in a testy mood today, due to the planets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't let household tasks bore you now, so read a good book. Put more music into your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be content with less expensive fun and really enjoy whatever is wholesome. Don't buy something that is too expensive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Forget all your worries and take it easy today and avoid sickness of some sort, especially the nervous kind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't permit others to upset you who are the unfeeling kind, and avoid them. Make sure that those you do see are charming.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a strong willpower and will want the own way, which is fine, provided it is not misguided, so give spiritual training early in life so that this fine trait will be used for good. There is much ability at business here, but also a desire to help others who are downtrodden.

THE Daily Crossword

by Wilson McBeath

ACROSS

1 Powder base

5 Musical term

9 Slightly open

13 Sandstone tree

14 Pretty

15 Poetic name

16 Hannibal and

17 Vicksburg

18 Hannibal

19 — of the

20 John Gilbert's

21 medium

22 Arab bigwig

23 Ragan's father

24 Size of paper

25 Come

26 Youngster

27 Artist Rivers

28 Enthusiasm

29 Alias: after

30 Capri

31 Six sense

32 Two-year-old

33 ship

34 Elevated

35 habitation

36 Furniture

37 Moves

38 turn

39 Gypsy

40 Initiation

41 Ways: after

42 Up to now

43 Handwritten

44 Business

45 Churches

46 Whistle

47 Calves and

48 mangle

49 Whistle

50 Whistle

51 Whistle

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S. African forces report killing 37 SWAPO guerrillas

WINDHOEK, South-West Africa (Agencies) — South African soldiers shot dead 37 black nationalist guerrillas in a battle near South-West Africa's border with Angola, the military said.

The South-West Africa Territory Force said in the capital, Windhoek, that the fighting Friday brought to 85 the number of guerrillas killed in skirmishes this year. A total of 599 insurgents were slain last year, the force said.

Guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) have fought since 1966 to end South African rule over the territory, usually called Namibia. South Africa took control of the former German colony during World War I and has refused United Nations resolutions to grant Namibia independence.

The territory force statement, Friday night, did not specify where the fighting in the northeast Owanbo region occurred. It said there were no South African casualties.

The statement said the latest fighting indicated SWAPO had belatedly launched its rainy-season infiltration, which usually

begins in December or January each year, from bases in neighbouring Angola.

South Africa has said it will grant independence to Namibia if Angola sends home an estimated 30,000 Cuban troops based there, a demand supported by the United States. Angola says the Cubans are needed to defend against South African aggression, including numerous incursions into the region.

South Africa says the raids are to pursue SWAPO guerrillas, but Angola says the white-led South African government is aiding Angolan guerrillas led by Jonas Savimbi, who operate from a base in south eastern Angola.

Meanwhile in Geneva South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha has told the 12-nation European Community (EC) that his white-minority government's policy of apartheid "is dying and will disappear."

Mr. Botha arrived unannounced in Switzerland this week and told reporters Friday his mission was to convince the West that reforms in South Africa spelled the end for the long-standing policy of strict racial separation.

"I agree that there is suspicion we will not implement what we implied. My task today was to endeavour to convey... to European governments that we have the will and the intention to implement what was announced and to go beyond it," he said.

Mr. Botha said reforms announced on Jan. 31 signalled the acceptance by the government of power sharing with all groups in the black majority. He was speaking after Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers.

Mr. Botha met Chester Crocker, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aebler earlier in the week.

He also agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to permit a team to visit South Africa for the first time. It

will assess the situation of exiled Mozambicans.

Mr. Van Den Broek reacted coolly to Mr. Botha's explanations: "Implementation of what has been announced is what really counts," Mr. Van Den Broek said.

Confidence building measures were essential to further the peaceful process in South Africa, particularly the release of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, he added.

But Mr. Botha said long-standing conditions must be met to obtain the release of Mr. Mandela, the 68-year-old leader of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

Mr. Botha restated previous conditions for Mr. Mandela's freedom after 24 years in prison: Either renunciation by Mr. Mandela of violence as a means of attaining political objectives or the release of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, who is in internal exile in the closed city of Gorky, and South African army Capt. Wynand Dn Toit, captured on a mission in Angola.

Rioting spreads to Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP) — One person was wounded by police gunfire Saturday as Muslim rioting over the reopening of a Hindu shrine spread to Kashmir, the United News of India reported.

A curfew, meanwhile, remained in force in the walled city of old Delhi, where Muslim mobs went on a rampage Friday. One Muslim youth was killed when police opened fire to disperse rioters.

One person was wounded Saturday by police gunfire in Srinagar, Kashmir's capital, where many shopkeepers shuttered their stores in response to Muslim demands, UNI reported.

Police opened fire after tear gas failed to scatter the rampaging mobs, the agency said.

In New Delhi, Police Vice-Commissioner Rajendra Mohan said more than 100 people had been arrested under preventive detention laws or on charges of rioting.

Mobs smashed buses, cars and shops Friday and one person was shot dead by police in Delhi. Nearly 100 people were injured in the violence in Delhi and several towns in Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state.

"The situation is fully under control," Mohan said Saturday. "There has been no incident of violence today."

The mob in Delhi formed after Friday prayers at the 17th-century Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque.

Muslim organisations had called for protests against the opening of the shrine at Ayodhya. The site is said to be the birth place of Hindu Lord Rama, but Muslims contend it is a mosque.

The shrine had been closed for three decades. A district court on Feb. 1 ordered it opened to Hindu pilgrims.

Muslims also blocked traffic in Calcutta, the nation's largest city, FTI said.

Meanwhile opposition parties have called for nationwide demonstrations to protest recent increases in prices of goods such as rice, bread and cooking fuel.

George Fernandes, general secretary of the Janata or People's Party, told reporters Friday that the demonstrations next Thursday, opening day of the new session of parliament, would call for the withdrawal of all recent price hikes.

The increases triggered a national furor, prompting the government to cut them back slightly.

Mr. Fernandes said a nationwide general strike also was planned. The date will be decided in consultation with national labour federations, and the strike should be before the Feb. 28 presentation of the annual budget.

NATO chief warns against 'zero option'

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO supreme allied commander Gen. Bernard Rogers has warned against a complete elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe, which President Reagan is reported to be ready to offer.

Gen. Rogers told a closed meeting of NATO parliamentarians such a move would leave Western Europe prone to coercion from superior Soviet shorter-range missiles, conventional forces and chemical weapons, participants said.

Mr. Rogers has told the allies he is willing to accept Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for a mutual ban on Euro-missiles if the Soviet Union halves its SS-20 rockets in Asia and drops demands to freeze French and British arsenals.

British member Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith told reporters that both Gen. Rogers and NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington had warned the North Atlantic assembly military committee that "zero-zero on nuclear arms does not get us out of the wood."

West German deputy Peter Cortier said the debate on the military rationale for sitting cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe had been revived by the prospect of a new U.S. offer to remove them at the Geneva arms talks.

Participants quoted Gen. Rogers as saying their withdrawal would leave NATO without a credible deterrent between its inadequate conventional forces and U.S. strategic nuclear weapons — precisely the situation which led to NATO's 1979 deployment decision.

He said Mr. Reagan's original 1982 proposal of a worldwide ban on medium-range missiles, while politically understandable, had given him "military gas pains" (indigestion). The same applied to this latest proposed "zero option."

Participants said Gen. Rogers clashed with West German Social Democratic member Norbert Gansel, who had said the general's arguments convinced him that the

NATO deployment decision had been "a military conspiracy" all along.

Gen. Rogers retorted that it was European political leaders, notably the then-West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who had called for the missiles.

Mr. Cortier said there was also concern that any Euro-missile deal should include restraints on Soviet shorter-range SS-21, 22 and 23 missiles in Eastern Europe and should be linked to progress in East-West talks on troop cuts in Central Europe.

Mr. Johnson-Smith added: "As we make progress on nuclear weapons, the issue of chemical weapons assumes more and more importance."

Meanwhile the United States and the Soviet Union held a full negotiating session in Geneva Friday grouping the teams that usually meet separately on long-range nuclear missiles, medium-range missiles and space arms, a U.S. spokesman said.

Spokesman Terry Shroeder told Reuters: "The rounds are normally characterised by three such joint plenary sessions, one at the beginning, one in the middle and one at the end. So there was nothing unusual about today's meeting."

Each of the three negotiating groups meets once a week but in the past a full negotiating session with all groups present has been called for the introduction of new proposals.

Shroeder said the session lasted one hour and 10 minutes at the U.S. Arms Control Agency Building. It was the first such full meeting since the fourth round of talks opened on Jan. 16.

Attention has been focused on medium-range missiles as the area where progress is most likely. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan agreed at their November summit to work towards such an interim agreement.

The Soviets have said agreement on medium-range missiles is no longer linked to U.S. abandonment of its multi-billion dollar Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

U.S. halts production of Tylenol, probe continues

NEW YORK (R) — Johnson and Johnson, makers of the pain-killer Tylenol, have halted its production after a district attorney said that cyanide which has already killed one woman might have been in the capsules at the factory.

The company also suspended sales of the popular capsules Friday and asked retailers to remove them from their shelves across the country.

Calling the poisoning "an act of terrorism pure and simple," Johnson and Johnson offered a \$100,000 reward for the capture of those responsible.

Two bottles, each containing five poisoned capsules, were found in New York's suburban Westchester County and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said each capsule contained 90 per cent cyanide.

John Norris, the deputy FDA commissioner, said the finding meant there was "a high probability the two amounts of cyanide came from the same source."

It was possible "that the same person or persons who put the drug in the first bottle put it in the

second," he said.

Carl Vergari, the prosecutor in Westchester, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) told him the capsules may have been poisoned at the plant.

"We are proceeding on several theories and the one I am leaning to... is that the cyanide was introduced at the manufacturing level," he said.

But Johnson and Johnson, whose share price dropped by four per cent on the New York Stock Exchange Friday, insisted the tampering occurred after the drug left the factory.

FDA Commissioner Frank Young said: "The most plausible explanation is tampering at the local level. There is still no evidence to indicate that the tainting is anything but a local matter."

The cyanide was found after Diane Elstroth, a 23-year-old stenographer, died on Feb. 8 after taking two capsules from one of the bottles.

The discoveries revived fears that followed the 1982 deaths of five people who bought Tylenol capsules laced with cyanide at a Chicago supermarket.

Children drink turtle blood to cure bronchitis

BEIRUT (R) — Twenty bronchitis sufferers sought a cure doctors had been unable to provide by drinking the fresh blood of a turtle they slaughtered in Beirut Saturday.

"Our grandfathers told us half a cup of turtle blood could cure chronic bronchitis, especially among children," said fisherman Abdul Wahab Saoud, who netted the 50 kilo reptile by accident three days ago. Parents had to bribe 12 children among them with chocolate to drink the blood, scooped in small coffee cups from the turtle's corpse after its throat was slit. "It's disgusting. I hate it," spluttered 13-year-old Rama, screwing up her face in revulsion. A doctor said drinking the blood was "probably harmless."

Woman wins lottery for a second time

TRENTON, New Jersey (R) — A New Jersey woman has won the top prize in the state lottery a second time, defying odds of about 17,300,000,000 to 1. Evelyn Marie Adams, a 32-year-old supermarket manager, won \$1.5 million just five months after winning \$3.9 million. "I never expected to win twice," she said. "Now I might stop playing the lottery and give someone else a chance." She shares the latest prize with her fiancée, Herman Baschore, 45. State officials said the odds against an individual winning a multimillion-dollar lottery jackpot twice were about 17,300 billion to 1.

Church suspends 2 Lesbian deaconesses

TORONTO (R) — Canada's Anglican Church has suspended two deaconesses, one of them pregnant, after they declared their lesbian relationship and desire to raise a child. Archbishop Lewis Gamsworthy of Toronto, who imposed the suspensions, told reporters the publicity surrounding the case had scandalised the church. Canada's Anglican Church allows ordained ministers to be homosexual provided they abstain from sex, but it refuses to sanction homosexual unions or marriages. The 900,000-member church is Canada's third largest and is independent of the Church of England. The archbishop's action came after revelations by Rev. Joyce Barnett at a recent Toronto church service that she had become pregnant by means of artificial insemination and that she and fellow deaconess Alison Kemper lived together and looked forward to raising the child.

Man sets himself on fire in front of White House

WASHINGTON (R) — An unidentified man set himself on fire in front of the White House during a snowstorm, U.S. Park Police said. The man, who is presumed to be in his middle 30s, was rushed to the multi-trauma unit of the Washington Hospital Centre with severe burns, police said. President Reagan was in Santa Barbara, California, at the time a White House spokesman said. The man had apparently doused himself with fuel in front of the north side of the White House at about 10 p.m. est (0300 GMT) before lighting a match to himself, the spokesman said.

Soviets do extra day's unpaid work

MOSCOW (R) — Millions of Soviet workers did an extra day's unpaid work Saturday, in their factories or on the streets, in honour of this month's Communist Party congress. People of all ages, office workers, students and even some pensioners, could be seen hacking away at ice-paved pavements or cleaning road signs in Moscow's "morning sunshine. Factories and plants of all types also stayed open for the "subbotnik," a word derived from the Russian for Saturday.

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You have an appointment
With
MOZART

Reagan urged to halt U.S. aid to Philippines

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee has urged President Ronald Reagan to suspend U.S. aid to the Philippines because of "gross manipulation and blatant disregard for democratic principles" by President Ferdinand Marcos.

Chairman Dante Fascell told Mr. Reagan in a letter the U.S. president may have encouraged the alleged manipulation through statements indicating the blame for election fraud may lie not only with Marcos and his government but with supporters of his opponent, Corason Aquino.

"I urge you to consider immediate suspension of all military and economic assistance to the Philippines pending a full executive branch review of U.S. policy," said Mr. Fascell, whose committee writes the annual foreign aid authorisation bill.

Echoing a growing number of congressional leaders, Mr. Fascell told Mr. Reagan: "It is now obvious the election involved blatant manipulation and gross disregard for democratic principles. President Marcos, as head of the government and the candidate of his party, shoulders the direct responsibility for these failures."

Referring to important U.S. naval and military facilities in the Philippines, Mr. Fascell said it is obvious U.S. security interests in the country are vital and cannot be disregarded.

"But the implications of this clearly tainted election for future U.S.-Philippine relations are enormous," Mr. Fascell said. "An aid suspension is a prudent and necessary step in light of the inevitable damage the United States will suffer if it fails to distance itself from a regime that has obviously decided to stay in power regardless of the consequences of thwarting the democratic process and the will of the people."

Congress approved \$154 million in aid to the Philippines for the fiscal year that ends next Sept. 30. It is not clear how much of the total has been spent. However, an

aid cutoff would likely have a strong symbolic impact in addition to any economic consequences, according to House staff members who asked not to be identified by name.

In a nationally televised news conference, Tuesday evening, Mr. Reagan addressed reports of violence and fraud in the elections but official U.S. delegation Mr. Reagan sent to the Philippines to monitor the election said it was clear most of the abuse was committed by the Marcos government, which controlled the election machinery.

Mr. Fascell told the president he believes it is "urgent that the United States determine a firm and consistent policy toward the Philippines and stop sending conflicting signals that only aggravate an already serious situation."

"In fact, your recent comments may have only had the effect of encouraging President Marcos to continue his manipulative efforts," Mr. Fascell told Mr. Reagan.

In San Francisco, Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said Friday he wants the Defence Department to report to Congress by the end of this year on nations other than the Philippines that could host U.S. military bases in the Far East.

Sen. Dole also said he planned to introduce legislation next week regarding the possible relocation of two U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

"I think there are some possibilities" for other locations, Sen. Dole said. He refused to be specific, however, and admitted "we might not find any" nations willing to host the bases.

Earlier Friday, Representative Richard Gephardt, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said clear signs of fraud in the Philippine election endanger not only U.S. aid but the continued presence of U.S. military bases in that Pacific nation.

"Our national interest would not be served by propping up a dictatorial regime," Mr. Gephardt said.

S.Korean dissidents defy ban, clash with police

SEOUL (R) — South Korean dissident leader Kim Young-Sam and his supporters Saturday clashed with police for the third consecutive day in defiance of a government ban on a campaign seeking constitutional changes.

Witnesses said dozens of dissidents struggled with 200 plainclothes police on a Seoul street as the police stopped Mr. Kim from entering a coffee shop where he was due to discuss the campaign with opposition members.

Mr. Kim has been forcibly taken home by police over the past two days and was placed under house arrest for several hours Friday. But he was allowed to go to his office in the building of the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKP) Saturday.

Kim Dae-Jung, the country's other dissident leader, remained totally isolated, with 1,000 riot police surrounding his house. They have been there since Wednesday when he and Kim Young-Sam, along with 200 other opposition figures, signed a petition calling for changes in the electoral system.

The government has threatened to return Kim Dae-Jung to jail if he continues anti-government activities. Police Saturday sent to prosecutors the case of 189 students

who have been charged with illegal assembly for vowing to help collect 10 million signatures for the petition.

The document calls on the government to allow direct presidential elections instead of the current 5,000-member electoral college.

Fourteen more students have been arrested for planning to collect signatures on the street later this month, a police spokesman said.

More than 1,500 policemen raided universities throughout the country Friday night and seized thousands of petrol bombs, iron bars, anti-government leaflets and placards, and printing machines.

Some of the placards read "recall the constitution" and "long live democracy," police said, adding that the raids were to block students from joining the petition campaign when they return to campuses from vacation next month.

State prosecutors have warned that those taking part in the petition campaign could face a maximum seven years in jail. But Kim Young-Sam told Reuters Saturday the opposition drive had begun in many parts of the country.

Committee to review U.N. priorities

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Ford Foundation is paying \$390,000 for a private committee of U.S. and foreign leaders to review the priorities and problems of the United Nations, a spokesman has said.

The committee has the blessing of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who issued a statement saying it will be complementary to an 18-member inter-governmental group created by the General Assembly to review U.N. management and efficiency.

Peter Fromuth of the U.N. Association of the United States said his organization's chairman, former U.S. Defence Secretary Elliot Richardson, will chair the private

review panel.

Among other U.S. members will be former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, former World Bank President Robert McNamara, and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, who sponsored the bill cutting U.S. support for the United Nations unless large contributors are given more say in U.N. spending.

Included among foreign members are T.T.B. Koh, Singapore's envoy to the United States and former ambassador at the United Nations; Professor Sadako Okada of Japan, former minister in Japan's U.N. mission; Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias;

former French U.N. envoy Jacques Leprieux, and Brian Urquhart, British diplomat who recently retired as U.N. undersecretary-general for special political affairs.

Overall the group will consist of nine Americans, five representatives from other developed countries and seven representatives of the developing world," Mr. Fromuth said.

The panel will hold its first meeting in April and is expected to produce a final report in 1987. It will concentrate on whether the United Nations is doing things it should not be doing or not doing things it should be doing, Mr. Fromuth said.

Challenger booster rocket 'was chosen because it was cheaper'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A booster rocket without joints or seals was rejected for use with the space shuttle because a multi-segment design was cheaper, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

Possible failure of a joint on the right booster rocket of space shuttle Challenger is suspected as a cause of the explosion that destroyed the orbiter and its crew of seven shortly after liftoff on Jan. 28.

The seamless booster design was proposed by Aerojet General, a California firm that built Titan and Polaris missiles.

Aerojet's design and rocket systems proposed by two other firms were rejected because Morton Thiokol, the Utah firm that built the multi-part solid fuel rocket, "would give the agency the lowest funding requirements," a 1973 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) document says.

Morton Thiokol's boosters are reusable steel rocket casings made up of four segments bolted together at Kennedy Space Centre.

The decision to build the boosters in segments was a serious error, said Werner Kuehner, a former vice president of Aerojet General who headed its solid rocket programme.

"I wouldn't build a rocket the way that one was built," he was

quoted as saying in the Times. "If you put a number of joints in the rocket, every joint is a potential area of concern. You won't find any Defence Department rockets built like that."

Officials at Aerojet General would not comment on the report. Morton Thiokol could not immediately be reached for comment.

Presidential investigators examined Challenger's launch pad and wreckage Friday, looking for evidence to explain a puff of black smoke that indicated trouble as the shuttle lifted off on its fatal flight.

"With the exception of the orbiter, everything is being looked into," said panel chairman William P. Rogers after the commission ended two days of intensive closed-door discussions and inspections of the boosters and launch pad 39B.

As the commission completed its investigation at Kennedy Space Centre, the space agency reported that Challenger was rocked violently as flame apparently burst through the right rocket booster about 11 seconds before it exploded in a fireball.

NASA released a time line, prepared from photographs and data radioed from the shuttle, that shows the plume of black smoke appeared on the right booster's lower segment only 445 of a second after liftoff and was visible for about 12 seconds before dis-

appearing.

Smoke again appears on the side of the booster at 58 seconds. An intense flame then is visible in this area a little more than a second later. The chamber pressure in the rocket fell at that time, causing the left booster to begin tumbling the shuttle slightly off course, according to the time line.

The shuttle's computers tried to compensate for the difference by moving the right wing flap at 62 seconds.

Shortly after that, the computers caused the engine nozzles to swivel, in efforts to compensate. This caused Challenger to move up and down, but NASA spokesman Jim Mizell said the crew may not have felt the motions because of tremendous wind and atmospheric pressure at that point.

Mr. Rogers, a former U.S. secretary of state named to head the panel set up by President Ronald Reagan, said the investigators "collected so much information that we need some time to analyse that information."

"I'm not going to speculate (on the cause)," he said.

Commissioner Richard P. Feynman, a Nobel laureate in physics, told a news organisation pool reporter that O-ring seals at the right booster's lower segment appeared to be "the most likely cause," of the explosion.

But he cautioned another cause

might be discovered.

"Every time we think of a possibility, that doesn't mean that's it," Mr. Feynman said. "We write down all the things we can think about and scratch them off one by one until we isolate and conclude that this is it."

Aviation week, a space industry magazine, said it would report in next week's edition that a sensor used 90 minutes before launch found temperatures below safety limits on the right booster. The magazine said NASA engineers are assessing whether the low temperatures might have been caused by cold liquid hydrogen fuel leaking from the external tank.

Meanwhile the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (INTELSAT) has agreed to launch three new communications satellites aboard the U.S. space shuttle beginning next year.

INTELSAT Acting Director General Jose Alegret told reporters at a signing ceremony on Feb. 13 that his organisation and NASA were entering into a \$180-million contract for the launch of three state-of-the-art INTELSAT VI satellites. The first two satellites are scheduled to be launched on July 15, 1987 and Feb. 2, 1988, he said, and a third is due for launch in 1991.

The INTELSAT VI series will be the largest and most sophisticated communications sat-

ellites ever put into orbit, featuring a capacity of 30,000 two-way telephone circuits and three television channels. Each satellite can provide about eight times the capacity of previous INTELSAT satellites.

"This contract demonstrates INTELSAT's continued commitment to the space shuttle programme and our confidence that the space shuttle will remain a reliable launch vehicle for our satellites in the future," Alegret said during the contract signing ceremony with NASA officials.

The director of NASA's Customer Services Division, Chief Lee, told reporters the contract was the first signed by the space agency with a commercial shuttle customer since the ill-fated mission of the space shuttle Challenger.

"I view signing of the contract as a signal that NASA and the U.S. are moving ahead with the space programme," he said. "There is no question that these are trying times. This was a terrible tragedy... and NASA feels it very deeply. But we must go on. It helps us to know that our customers have confidence in us."

Mr. Lee said that, in the aftermath of the accident that destroyed Challenger, no shuttle customers had canceled payloads scheduled for future shuttle missions.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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CONTROL THE TRUMPS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
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♥ 10 9 8 7 4 2
♦ J 8 5
♣ 7

WEST EAST
♠ K 10 8 7 ♠ A J 9 5 4 3
♥ Q J 3 ♥ A K 5
♦ Q 4 3 ♦ 10 2
♣ K Q 10 8 ♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ 6
♦ A K Q 7 6
♣ A J 9 5 4 3

The bidding
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Double Pass Pass
Pass Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

West Coast stars Chip Martel, Lew Stansby, Peter Fender and Hugh Ross, augmented by Bobby Wolff and Bob Hamman of Dallas and captained by Alfred Shelnwald of Los Angeles, earned the right to represent the U.S. in the 1985 World Team Championship by defeating a squad captained by Dr. George Rosenkranz of Maple Grove in trials held in Memphis, Tenn., in May.

In an exciting final, they saw a 110 International Match Point lead

vanish and become a 44 IMP deficit with only the last quarter of the match remaining. But they came back strongly to win by 5 IMPs in the closest finish ever in the team trials.

On this hand from early in the match, Bob Hamman made a spectacular defensive play to earn the maximum set. Note that South's bid of four no trump was not Blackwood, but a request for North to choose his better minor suit.

The same contract was reached in the other room, where a trump was led. Now declarer could have escaped for down one by winning in